

July 14, 2004

The Honorable Robert Bunda, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 003
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

Re: Senate Bill No. 214, S.D.3, H.D.2, C.D.1

On July 13, 2004, Senate Bill No. 214, entitled "Relating to Workforce Development" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

This bill authorizes Leeward Community College to develop a program to provide services to Freely Associated States (FAS) students, as well as to the Micronesian, Marshallese, and Palauan communities at large, to ensure their success in school through cultural education, language, employment, training, and legal services.

I support the general intent of this bill to establish a program to provide training for Micronesian, Marshallese, and Palauan immigrants in Hawaii to assist them in becoming productive, gainfully employed members of our community.

I have concerns regarding this bill because it prohibits the University of Hawaii from using general funds to finance the program and specifies that this exact program must be conducted at Leeward Community College. The funds restriction conflicts with the fiscal autonomy given to the University and the mandated program conflicts with the operational autonomy usually afforded the University. In addition, the bill sets forth broad ranging responsibilities without a secure funding stream, making it difficult for the University to assure success.

Therefore, I allowed Senate Bill No. 214, S.D.3, H.D.2, C.D.1 to become law as Act 225, effective July 13, 2004, without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE